

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 AF-08 OPIC-03 /094 W

----- 017873

R 051251Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2549

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORL

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PO IS

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE/ISRAELI RELATIONS

REFS: (A) LISBON 5212, (B) LISBON 5240

1. THE STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

SOARES THAT PROTUGAL INTENDED

TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL HAS BEEN WELCOMED HERE.

THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATMENT ON

AUGUST 3. BEGIN TEXT: THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

AFFAIRS STATED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ISRAEL WELCOMED THE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE PREMIER, MARIO SOARES, WHO

NOTED IN THE ADDRESS PRESENTING HIS NEW CABINET TO THE NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY THAT HE WOULD STRIVE FOR A NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. END TEXT.

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2. PRESS COMMENT NOTED THAT THE PROGUGUESE POSITION WAS THE RESULT OF CONTACTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED BY ISRAELI SOCIALIST LEADERS WITH COLLEAGUES IN PORTUGAL AND IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (SEE TEL AVIV 4097 AND 3398). FOR EXAMPLE, DAVAR WROTE ON AUGUST 4 THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS "A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE CONTACTS MAINTAINED BY THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN PORTUGAL IN GENERAL AND SOARES IN PARTICULAR". YEDIOT AHARONOT HAD WRITTEN ON AUGUST 3 THAT "WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADERS WORK TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WHICH WOULD CONSOLIDATE PORTUGAL'S POSITION IN WESTERN EUROPE".

3. HOWEVER, IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION AUGUST 5 THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN OFFICE IN THE MFA (SAVIR) WAS SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS. HE SAID THE ONLY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE GOP HAD BEEN THE APPROPRIATE PORTION OF THE SOARES SPEECH SETTING OUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, WHICH HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THE ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL IN LISBON. HE SAID THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE ISRAELI RESPONSE HAD NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED BUT IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AT THE PRESENT TIME.  
DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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